

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we have heard from our House Republican leadership team, this week the House will lose one of its most faithful servants to the private sector, when my good friend Kathryn Lehman leaves her post as chief of staff of the House Republican Conference after more than 15 years of service here in the House on Capitol Hill.

After graduating from Catholic University with a law degree, Kathryn came to the Hill in 1989 to serve then-ranking member, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), as his only staffer on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Civil and Constitutional Rights.

After the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) became the subcommittee's ranking member, Kathryn continued her work and learned much from his example in leadership.

When the Republicans took over control of the House in 1994, Kathryn became the subcommittee's chief counsel and helped usher in some of the most important reforms of the first 100 days of our Congress. In 1997, Karen began working for Speaker Gingrich, playing an important part in many of the most memorable events in Congress's history. She also advised Speaker Gingrich on oversight issues involving the committees on Judiciary, Education and the Workforce, House Administration, and Government Reform.

In 1998, she took the helm as policy director for then-majority whip, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY). There, she made her mark on some of the most impressive legislative accomplishments of the Congress. Kathryn's talents then took her to the Speaker's office, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT).

Obviously, she had a hard time keeping a job at any one time, but she oversaw his coalitions and outreach efforts. In 2002, Kathryn became chief of staff for the House Republican Conference under the leadership of my great friend, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE). There she effectively crafted our message and led us to new levels of accomplishment and unity.

Kathryn now leaves the House for Holland & Knight where she will continue to be what she has always been, a bold woman who is not afraid to speak her mind. At Holland & Knight, she will follow in the tradition of her and another great mind, the late Congresswoman Tillie Fowler, my friend from Florida.

And Kathryn's long and impressive career is an example of what we can all achieve if we stick to our principles and never quit until the fight is over. Kathryn has learned much during her tenure, but she has taught others much more.

It is not surprising that Kathryn has so many friends. Through her sheer force of character and great personality, Kathryn has forged friendships with Republican and Democrat Members and staff alike. The gentleman

from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) for example, the dean of the House, is one such friend; and I know that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. DINGELL) shares in my best wishes for Kathryn's future successes.

Kathryn deserves the thanks of so many Members on an individual level, but also deserves the thanks of the House of Representatives as a body.

Few have done more to protect its integrity and its efficacy, as Kathryn Lehman; and I know that she will be missed. She is more than just a staffer, she is more than just the Chair of so many important positions, she is more specially important, my friend, *mi amiga*, and always will be.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to offer my best wishes and a fond farewell to Kathryn Lehman who is leaving Capitol Hill after 15 years of service. Kathryn has been like few others: effective, universally admired, and respected. And she has always offered blunt advice.

During her Hill career, Kathryn has served two Judiciary Committee Chairmen, one Majority Whip, one Conference Chairman, and two Speakers of the House—including myself.

Kathryn cut her teeth on the House Judiciary Committee working for then-Ranking Member SENSENBRENNER on the Civil and Constitutional Rights Subcommittee and, following that, then-Ranking Member HYDE. Those tough days in the minority prepared Kathryn for the responsibility of her role as Chief Counsel following the Republican victory in 1994. She went on to serve as Special Assistant to Speaker Newt Gingrich, Policy Director for then-Majority Whip TOM DELAY, my Director of Coalitions and Outreach, and finally Chief of Staff for the House Republican Conference.

Kathryn has not only been in the room when some of the most important decisions of this House were made, but she also helped to make them. From habeas corpus reform to tax reform, Kathryn has touched it all. She has impacted more legislation during her career than she'd probably care to admit, and each time she acted with strength and conviction.

Many staffers have a laundry list of legislative achievements and career highlights, but Kathryn is more than the sum of her accomplishments. Her tenure is marked just as surely by the friendships she has made—on both sides of the aisle—than by the laws she helped to craft or the bills she ushered through to passage.

But perhaps Kathryn's most astonishing—and admirable—characteristic is her unwavering idealism. Throughout her time on Capitol Hill, she has never lost her way and has been guided by her beliefs and values. In good times and bad, Kathryn always spoke her mind and kept us all on the right track. I will miss her loyalty, her ability to make you laugh, and her sound judgment.

I wish Kathryn the very best and know that she will continue to be a standard bearer for what is right in Washington.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that our colleagues have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on

the subject of Kathryn Lehman's departure and tenure in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

REFLECTING ON THE 2-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF THE PRESIDENT'S "MISSION ACCOMPLISHED" SPEECH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday, May 1, marked the 2-year anniversary of President Bush's speech abroad the USS *Lincoln*, the "mission accomplished" speech.

So what have we accomplished in the last 2 years? Saddam Hussein's regime has fallen. Yet today we find ourselves mired in an endless occupation.

This past January witnessed a successful election, yet progress on developing a functioning government has been slow at best. The terror and the insurgency remain as strong as ever and seems to be growing at certain points. Explosions killed more than 100 people last week alone.

The economy is stalled, the civil society is unable to come together, and millions of Iraqis remain without regular electrical services and basic services from their government. The brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces continue to fight a very vigorous fight, but the battle has taken its toll. We have lost 1,600 fellow citizens in the last 2 years, 2½ years, and more than 12,000 have been wounded.

The strain has been so great that recruiters cannot meet their enlistment goals. Through the first 5 months of fiscal year 2005, the Army is short of their recruitment goal by 15 percent. The Pentagon now says that they are stretched so thin it would be difficult for the military to meet other obligations should they need to do so.

Mr. Speaker, Operation Iraqi Freedom was a war of choice. And as President Kennedy once said, to govern is to choose. One can only hope that the war in Iraq was the right choice. This week we will appropriate an additional \$81 billion, bringing the total cost of the war in dollar sense, to \$300 billion: \$300 billion, 1,600 American lives, 12,000 citizens wounded.

And yet the insurgency continues and the war goes on. The \$300 billion we have added to the structural deficit is on top of a \$2 trillion new debt created since President Bush originally took office in 2001.

And what have we done while we have added \$300 billion to Iraq? Every President when they have taken the battle and taken the war, has thought about how to build America post that war.

President Lincoln finished the transcontinental railroad, the land grant colleges. Roosevelt not only had the